

# Commission Notes



A publication of the Indiana Arts Commission November / December 2002 for more information, visit [www.in.gov/iac/](http://www.in.gov/iac/)

## IAC Commissioner Leonard Pas named to NASAA board of directors

When Leonard Pas, Eminence, recently accepted his appointment to the board of directors of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), it was something akin to completing a circle for the retired consultant and arts advocate.

In 1965, as the National Endowment for the Arts was coming into existence and federal grants were being disbursed to states, there were very few states that had existing organizations representing and serving the arts at the state level. On such state was Illinois and Pas was the executive director of the Illinois Arts Council. As such, Pas was among a small group of individuals who argued for the creation of an organization that would represent the interests of state arts organizations on the national level.

"My peers and I took a leadership role at that time in getting this organization formed," Pas explained. "States wanted to support the formation of the NEA,

but they also wanted to have some voice in protecting the major cultural organizations in their states, because these were our 'cultural jewels', and as such were very important to the interests of our state organizations."

Pas was appointed to the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) in 2000. IAC Executive Director Dorothy L. Ilgen submitted his nomination to NASAA and the appointment became official at the organization's national conference in Detroit.

"I received some calls in midsummer asking if I would be willing to serve," he said. "Since I was the second chairman to lead NASAA, I was very interested in seeing the progress that has been made over these 30-plus years."

Pas chairs the IAC's Cultural Trust Development Committee, and serves on the IAC's Public Awareness, and Program Evaluation committees. He also serves as

an Indiana representative to the board of directors of Arts Midwest. One of Pas' first assignment with the NASAA board will be serving on their nominating committee.

"I am very pleased to have the opportunity to be involved with something I helped start," Pas said. "I consider it an honor to cheer and applaud the progress made in this whole field of public support for the arts, and in some way work toward seeking a larger and more sympathetic ear toward the arts."



The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

## 2003 Governor's Arts Awards to highlight Arts and Humanities Month

Every two years, the state of Indiana recognizes outstanding and significant contributions to the arts with the presentation of the Indiana Governor's Arts Awards. In 2003, that special ceremony will move from early spring to October.

"It seemed fitting that the 30th anniversary of the first Governor's Arts Awards should be held during National Arts and Humanities Month," said IAC Executive Director Dorothy L. Ilgen. "For some time now, it has been the Commission's desire to increase the visibility of this event, and we think that October is the perfect time to hold this event."

A record number of 54 nominations were submitted for the 2003 awards, and the field of candidates were very strong. Nominees not chosen for the 2001 awards were also considered in the nomination review process.

"There was a very strong collection of qualified nominees," Ilgen said. "Some are very well known personalities and others not so well known, but equally committed to expanding the arts."

The Governor's Arts Awards Planning Committee met in mid-November to select five nominees and two alternates for Governor O'Bannon's consideration. The names of the candidates and alter-

nates will not be released until after the Governor's review.

The IAC is also considering a partnership opportunity that would feature the Governor's Arts Awards as an independent event held in conjunction with the statewide Community Arts Conference organized by the Arts Alliance of Indiana, and the Indiana Advocates for the Arts.

"With these events both taking place during the month of October, it seems to make sense to work in partnership to heighten public awareness of the arts in Indiana," Ilgen explained.

## Lilly heiress' estate plan will direct millions to the arts

Although previously rejecting her submissions of verse and prose, Chicago-based Poetry Magazine recently learned of a different form of contribution from Indianapolis billionaire Ruth Lilly.

The 87-year-old heiress to the Lilly pharmaceutical fortune annually contributes \$100,000 toward an individual writers award sponsored by the magazine. But recently it was announced that the amateur poet and philanthropist would donate an estimated \$100 million to the magazine over the next 30 years.

"Ruth Lilly has ensured our existence into perpetuity," Poetry editor Joe Parisi told reporters upon learning of the new provision in Lilly's estate plan.

In print since 1912, the magazine has published the likes of T. S. Eliot, Carl Sandburg, William Bulter Yeats and Dylan Thomas. It boasts a subscription base of 10,000.

Lilly began submitting her own poetry to the magazine in the early 70s, but was never published.

But poetry magazine is only one of the arts organizations mentioned in Ruth Lilly's new estate plan.

Americans for the Arts (AFTA), a nationwide arts education and advocacy organization, learned it stands to receive \$86 million from the Lilly estate.

"We're extremely excited and very thankful for Miss Lilly's generosity," AFTA Executive Director Robert Lynch told reporters.

Although uncertain at this time how the donation would be used, Lynch explained it could be directed toward the organization's endowment, or used for arts research, education, marketing and training.

"We are going to pay special attention to how Indianapolis can benefit," Lynch said.

## New director named for Lafayette museum of art

The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette recently announced the hiring of Les Reker as its new executive director.

Reker assumes leadership of the museum Dec. 9 replacing acting director Dr. William Theobald.

In June 2001 former museum director Gretchen Mehring resigned the post. Museum operations were led for nearly a year by volunteer interim director Bob Haan. In May, the museum hired Florida native Steven Paulus as executive director, but Paulus resigned the position in mid-June.

Reker, who has lengthy experience as both a curator and museum director, leaves the Columbus American Art and Regional History Museum in Columbus, GA to accept the position in Lafayette.

A former Indiana native and graduate of Indiana University, Reker told museum employees he is eager to return to Indiana.

## Rare Pissaro painting joins IMA's permanent collection

A rare painting by French Neo-Impressionist Camille Pissaro was recently acquired by the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

According to the *Indianapolis Star*, the pointillist painting "The House of the Deaf Woman and the Belfry at Eragny" has not been publicly shown since 1918.

The painting was purchased from the family of a collector in Switzerland for an undisclosed amount, and was paid for through the donation of an anonymous donor.

The painting will go on display Dec. 3

## Kathleen Beeler to step down from Commission

The Indiana Arts Commission regrets to report that Commissioner Kathy Beller, Granger, will be resigning her appointment to the Commission. The announcement is expected to be official at the Commission's quarterly meeting December 13 in Indianapolis.

Kathy cites increased family and business commitments in her decision not to seek a second term with the Commission. Her first term will expire in June 2003.

IAC Commissioners and staff extend their best wishes to Kathy, and thank her for her efforts in helping connect people to the arts in Indiana.

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## Among specialty plates, Arts Trust continued strong sales trends in 2002

According to the latest figures from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the IAC's Arts Trust license plate enjoyed one of the strongest sales increases of all special issue plates sold in 2002.

As of October, the last month for standard plate renewals, the Arts Trust plate ranked 13th out of 43 special issue plates in total sales. Among all special issue plates, only 10 realized sales increases over 2001 and the Arts Trust plate led all these with an increase of 289 plates over last year.

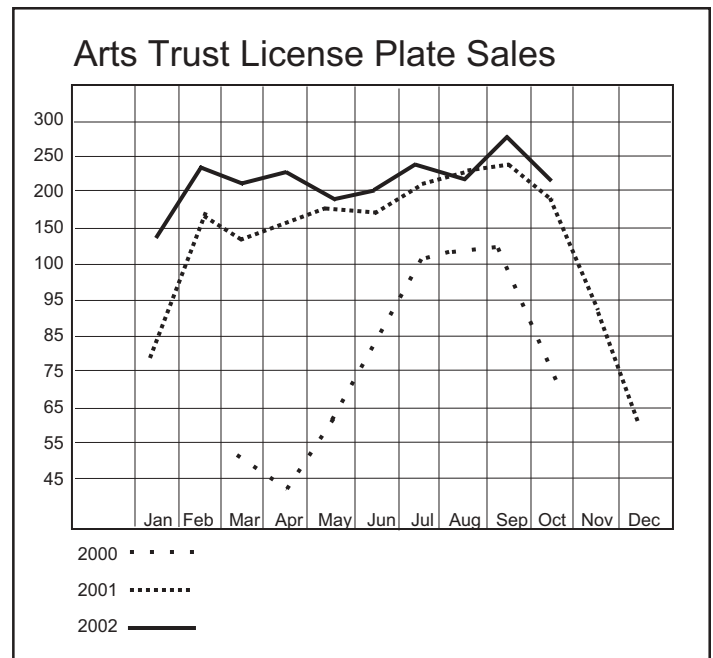
Arts Trust	+289
Vol. Firefighters	+128
Frat. Order of Police	+ 99
Indiana Shrine Assoc.	+ 96
Butler University	+ 18

As of October, Arts Trust plate sales totaled 2,316 plates. Revenue generated from 2002 sales is estimated at \$57,900.

Cumulative plate sales since March 2000 total 5,086 with estimated cumulative plate revenues totaling \$127,150.

The IAC is among five state agencies that will have their special issue plates featured on inserts included with each plate

renewal notice mailed by BMV in 2003.



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